

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /068 W
----- 047556

R 230658Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9974

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 2861

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, MY

SUBJ: TUNKU CRITICIZES GOM CHINA POLICY

1. WRITING IN THIS THRICE-WEEKLY COLUMN IN THE ENGLISH-
LANGUAGE PENANG "STAR" MAY 19, FORMER PRIME MINISTER TUNKU
ABDUL RAHMAN REMINISCED ABOUT ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA
(ASA) AND EARLY DAYS OF ASEAN. HE COMMENTED THAT THESE
ORGANIZATIONS ORIGINALLY WERE VERY LOOSE FORMS OF
ASSOCIATION AND "NO IDEA OF DEFENSE CREPT IN," EACH
COUNTRY WANTING TO BE LEFT TO ITS OWN FOREIGN POLICY DEVICES.
NOTING CONCERN EXPRESSED AT MAY 13 - 15 ASEAN FONMINS'
MEETING
OVER COMMUNIST SUCCESSES IN INDOCHINA, TUNKU SAID
U.S. HAS NOW "DEFECTED" AFTER PROTECTING SMALL NATIONS IN
SEASIA FROM COMMUNIST ADVANCE IN INDOCHINA.

2. HE AVERRED THAT FREE SEASIAN NATIONS ARE RUSHING INTO
RELATIONS WITH PRC AND THAT EMBASSIES HAVE BEEN
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EXCHANGED, BUT "RUMBLING OF GUNS ARE STILL HEARD IN

REMOTE AREAS OF THAILAND, MALAYSIA AND THE PHILIPPINES, CAUSED BY COMMUNIST INSURGENTS." IN MEETINGS WITH CHAIRMAN MAO, SEASIAN LEADERS HAVE "PLEADED FOR PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE," BUT THE "GREAT MAN" DID NOT RESPOND WITH OFFERS TO STOP THE VIOLENCE AND "ALL HE SAID WAS THAT "THE TROUBLE IS DOMESTIC AND YOU DEAL WITH IT AS BEST YOU CAN." THUS, TUNKU SEES PRC POSITION AS "DOUBTFUL AND NEGATIVE GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP." TUNKU ALSO RECALLED STATEMENT TO HIM BY MALAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF CHIN PENG AT 1956 BALING TALKS THAT "AS BETWEEN YOU AND THE COMMUNISTS THERE CAN BE NO CO-EXISTENCE." FINALLY, HE CALLED FOR "COUNCIL OF PEACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA" TO BE ESTABLISHED UNDER ASEAN AUSPICES TO WHICH ALL NATIONS "INTERESTED IN PEACE" SHOULD BE INVITED.

3. COMMENT: TUNKU, WHO IS ALSO BOARD CHAIRMAN OF PENANG "STAR" (SEE K.L. A-022, 1/9/75, P. 3), HAS GENERALLY BEEN TREATED AS A "NON-PERSON" BY THE GOVT ESTABLISHMENT AND GOVT-INFLUENCED MEDIA SINCE HE WAS FORCED TO RETIRE AFTER THE 1969 COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES. HE HAS USED HIS COLUMN IN THE "STAR" ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO CRITICIZE THE GOM AND THE CURRENT DRIFT OF EVENTS. LAST DECEMBER, FOR EXAMPLE, HE CHALLENGED ALLEGATION IN GOM HOME AFFAIRS MINISTRY "WHITE PAPER" THAT STUDENT UNREST STEMS MAINLY FROM COMMUNIST INSTIGATION. ALSO, ONE OF HIS FAVORITE TARGETS HAS BEEN EDUCATIONS MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMED WHO WAS IN FOREFRONT OF THOSE SEEKING TO UNSEAT HIM IN THE LATE 1960'S. TUNKU'S COMMENTS ON GOM'S CHINA POLICY ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE TAKEN GRACIOUSLY BY PM RAZAK AND OTHERS WHO HAVE MAINTAINED THAT PRC IS NOT SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNIST INSURGENCY BUT THE TUNKU, DESPITE THE FACT HE IS POLITICALLY "OVER THE HILL," IS STILL RESPECTED BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC FOR HIS CONSERVATIVE VIEWS AND FRANKNESS. UNDERHILL

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